

FREEDOM Ministry training comes to Flushing, Astoria



New York, NY — The FREEDOM Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America recently brought its national human trafficking awareness and prevention training to two vibrant New York communities—Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Flushing and St. Demetrios High School in Astoria.

Rev. Protopresbyter Dr. Peter Spiro, Director of the FREEDOM Ministry, visited both sites to educate parishioners and students on the growing concerns of human trafficking and online exploitation, and to strengthen local engagement in the Church's national response.



At Saint Nicholas Parish in Flushing, more than one hundred parishioners gathered for a Philoptochos-sponsored event to hear Fr. Peter speak about the scope of trafficking and the ministry's faith-based approach to prevention and advocacy. Participants expressed strong interest in learning how they could support the national effort and help expand outreach in their local area.



At St. Demetrios High School in Astoria, Fr. Peter addressed the entire student body, focusing on the dangers of online predators and the personal and social vulnerabilities that can place young people at risk. He also spoke about the importance of refraining from—and reporting—bullying, noting that lowered self-esteem and social isolation can make individuals more susceptible to traffickers. Students were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions and showing deep concern for their peers. Each student received a laminated “What to Know” reference card to keep as a practical reminder for the future.



Through these outreach efforts, the FREEDOM Ministry continues its mission to educate, equip, and mobilize Orthodox communities across the nation to confront modern-day slavery and safeguard human dignity.



For more information about the FREEDOM Ministry or to schedule a training in your parish or school, please contact Fr. Peter Spiro at [\[email protected\]](mailto:).

orthodoxobserver.org